

## Chapter Fourteen

### Handling Problems

#### I. Introduction

- A. Herod by now is hearing all about the “mighty works” that Jesus is doing, and imagines that it really is John the Baptist resurrected from the dead. Herod had a guilty conscience over murdering John
- B. Here we learn what happens to John the Baptist, and then watch Jesus push His disciples beyond themselves to learn to trust Him through every storm, and to just trust Jesus!

#### II. Lesson

##### A. Herod's \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt 14:1-14)

1. There were several “Herod’s” in the Bible
  - a. Herod - known as Herod I, or Herod \_\_\_\_\_ (born 71 BC, died 4 BC) (Mt 2:1-3)
    - 1) He was described as "a madman who murdered his own family and a great many rabbis."
    - 2) He is also known for his colossal building projects in Jerusalem and other parts of the ancient world, including the rebuilding of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, sometimes referred to as Herod's Temple.
    - 3) He massacred countless babies in Bethlehem
  - b. Herod \_\_\_\_\_ (the one here), the son of Herod the Great, and tetrarch ("ruler of a quarter") of Galilee and Perea.
    - 1) He married the daughter of Aretas, king of Arabia, whom he divorced in order to marry Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, who was still living.
    - 2) This Herod was responsible for the death of two very important people:
      - a) John the Baptist
      - b) Jesus of Nazareth
    - 3) Herod was succeeded by “Agrippa” who almost got saved in Acts 27!!!
2. Herod \_\_\_\_\_ John the Baptist
  - a. Herod Did not set out to kill John
  - b. Herod wants to believe Jesus is John the Baptist, whom he earlier had murdered
  - c. He loved to hear John the Baptist’s preaching (see Mark 6:20)
    - 1) Feared John the baptist, known John was godly, holy, just and fair.
    - 2) Herod watched John, and followed his movements
    - 3) Heard his preaching gladly!
    - 4) Loved preaching, loved right, but still lived in evil
    - 5) \_\_\_\_\_!
  - d. Herod believed John was a great prophet, and was always waiting for John to rise again from the grave to prove that he was a messiah of sorts – he believed in the resurrection because of all the mighty works
  - e. Imprisoned John reluctantly
    - 1) All for his wife, Herodias’ (Mrs. Herod) sake
    - 2) Herodias was the wife of \_\_\_\_\_, Herod’s \_\_\_\_\_
    - 3) John exposed sin in the life of a political leader (Lev 18:16; 20:21)
    - 4) God’s law applies to everyone, including unsaved Gentile politicians!!!
    - 5) The sin was three-fold:
      - a) Herod divorced his own wife, in order to marry Herodias
      - b) Herodias divorced Philip in order to marry Herod
      - c) Herod was now married to his brother’s wife

- f. Herod feared killing John in case of a riot breaking out (Mt 14:5)
- g. Satan used Herod's \_\_\_\_\_ (14:6-11)
  - 1) Philip's daughter was used by her mother to murder John the Baptist – a soap opera!
  - 2) She dances erotically for Herod – sensual dancing – what a thing for a step-daughter to do!
  - 3) Stupid men believe that a dancing girl really loves them!!! Pornography, night-clubs, pubs, movies, advertising, etc
  - 4) Herod wants to abundantly reward his step-daughter for a vile dance (up to half of his kingdom is offered to his unmarried step-daughter), but yet has imprisoned and will end up murdering a true friend and godly preacher!
  - 5) John had not sought only the condemnation of Herod but the conversion!
  - 6) This daughter was already instructed on what to say
    - a) The mother had encouraged the dancing and the style of the dancing
    - b) Mothers know the power of sexual dancing over men
    - c) Rebekah had a similar attitude about using children to manipulate her husband (Gen 27:12,13)
    - d) Herodias was actually trying to not only silence her accuser, but her conscience (Mk 6:19)
  - 7) Herod is grieved, but not concerned with the unjustness of such a execution – he regretted, but never \_\_\_\_\_!!!!
  - 8) \_\_\_\_\_ was put in the same situation in Daniel 6 – trapped!
  - 9) Ended with an execution
  - 10) All choreographed by a spurned, sinful, manipulative woman
  - 11) The trophy of her victory was the head of John the Baptist – she has no conscience!

- 3. John's disciples come and bury the body (14:12)
- 4. Jesus ministers to them, and to many people over the death of John (14:13-14)

**B. Jesus Feeds \_\_\_\_\_ People (Matthew 14:15-21)**

- 1. It was way passed dinner time (Mk 6:35)
- 2. This desert was not a sandy desert but a deserted, empty place with grass (John 6:10)
- 3. The disciples want some alone time – can you blame them?
- 4. Jesus commands them to let the people stay, and then commands them to feed all of the people!
- 5. They respond rationally – we only have one sack lunch with 5 loaves of barley bread, and two fish. It came from a little boy who offered it freely. Notice how they the disciples have not learned how to respond by faith
- 6. Jesus responds expectantly:
  - a. Bring the few loaves and fish to me
  - b. Organize everyone into groups of 50
  - c. Sit them down on the grass
  - d. Tell them to wait and see what God was about to do – be patient
  - e. He took the bread and fish, and praised God for them
  - f. And then He \_\_\_\_\_ them – started to tear off pieces and placing them into baskets
  - g. He gave them to the disciples, and they started running throughout the crowd with the baskets
- 7. Notice – “And they did all eat, and were filled” (14:20) – not a small bite either, but the people were stuffed, like they had eaten a 4 course meal!
- 8. Jesus actually commanded the disciples to go around and collect all the fragments (John 6:12)
- 9. There were 5,000 grown, hungry men who ate, as well as some 15,000 women and children for a total of \_\_\_\_\_ people eating a miraculous dinner that day!
- 10. Did you notice the following things?
  - a. The Jews (2 million of them) not only were miraculously fed in the wilderness every day for 40 years, back about 1,400 years prior to this event...
  - b. Now 20,000 Jews were miraculously fed in the presence of the Messiah
  - c. They will be fed once again during their flight in the \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 12:1-5; Micah 7:13-15)

- d. For something to be useful in God’s kingdom, they have to be \_\_\_\_\_ first (Cf John 12:24)!
- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ has to be broken before YOU can be used.
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_...
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_ (1Cor 11:24)

**C. Jesus Sends His Disciples into a Storm (14:22-33)**

1. Time for testing of the disciples – comes when we aren’t expecting it. Remember, they wanted some rest, but Jesus said get over to the other side! They are tired, they have run throughout a crowd of 20,000 people for about 2 hours, and NOW, Jesus commands (“constrained”) them to ROW and sail to the other side of the sea of Galilee!!!
2. Principle: \_\_\_\_\_!
3. Jesus personally said goodbye to all the multitudes – He really cared
4. Then Jesus \_\_\_\_\_! Alone!
5. But the ship was going through a deadly storm!
  - a. It was night time
  - b. The winds were contrary – blowing against them – they could not go forward
  - c. The sea was tossing their boat around like a trampoline
  - d. And to top it all off, SOMETHING was moving out on the waters, coming towards them! Jesus was only a shadow – there were no lights by the lightning flashes would show someone...
  - e. They were TERRIFIED
  - f. Thought it was a SPIRIT – maybe an angel, or a \_\_\_\_\_ more likely (Mt 12:43; Cf Acts 12:13-15)
6. A voice cries out through the storm, “*Be of \_\_\_\_\_; it is I; be not afraid.*” It sounded like Jesus!
7. Peter \_\_\_\_\_ the spirit (Mt 14:28,29; Cf 1John 4:1) – tests the apparent miracle:
  - a. If Jesus really is out walking on water... (they hadn’t seen this before)
  - b. Then He can enable another man to walk on water too – Jesus was just as much flesh and blood as Peter was, so why couldn’t Peter walk with Him?
  - c. Waits for Jesus to answer
  - d. Jesus must validate His miracle, or He is a false prophet (Cf Mt 11:2-5), so He bids Peter, “Come” (Mt 14:29). One word
  - e. Peter experiences the same miracle as Jesus, with 11 witnesses! Probably walked 10 metres
8. Peter quickly loses confidence
  - a. The winds and waves were at first amazing, but only as long as Jesus was the centre view (Heb 12:1,2)
  - b. When the impossibilities of the miracle took hold on Peter, he lost his confidence
  - c. Peter begins to sink like a rock, into stormy waters!!! He was 10 metres away from safety
  - d. Peter prays the shorter prayer, “*Lord, save me!*”
9. Jesus caught Peter half-way down... What a quick prayer, and what a quicker answer!!!
10. Jesus and Peter walk back to the ship, and as soon as they are in the boat, the storm stops
11. And all twelve fell at Jesus’ feet worshipping Him as the Son of God!

**D. Jesus Heals Anybody Who Would Believe in Him (14:34-36)**

1. They are back in the area of Capernaum, along the western shore
2. Everyone who was sick was brought to Jesus
3. All who reached out and touched Him were healed
4. People here needed to reach out to Jesus – choose Him, seek Him, etc. No Calvinism here!